

A
 REVIEW
 OF THE
 Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Tuesday, June 26. 1709.

IN Prosecuting the Affairs of Peace, thro' the Various Scenes of the Publick Matters, now Transacting on the Stage of the World, my True Design has been, and I think I can justify the Method, to suggest the Possibility of our being Defeated in our Measures Abroad, and to let People from thence Argue by their own Reason, what just Necessity there is upon them to Reconcile themselves to one another, and Unite their Strength, as well as Wishes, for the Publick Tranquility.

-In this I have been a little Blam'd, tho' I think without ground, as foreboding of Mischiefs, Prophecying Evil Tidings, and like the Wicked, *fearing where no fear is*; the Charge of which is, I think, much about as just as to tell the People they need take no Care of their Candle, because their Houses are not on Fire.

When we shall come to have a War that has no fatal Miscarriages in Prospect, I do not pretend to Determine; *No Dangers are to be slighted*, the Loss of a Campaign, and the French Over-running us one Summer or two, would open our Eyes a little, and we

should see things in quite another View; my Endeavour is, and all along has been, if possible, to lead you to set things in the same Light, as if you were Defeated, and so obtain the Moral, without the sad Experience of the Mischief.

However, here is a Gentleman goes beyond me, and he tells you from *Paris*, That they hear a Piece of News to the purpose.

Courant, June 23.

" There is a Report spread about, of
 " some Great Disaster befallen the Confe-
 " derate Fleet.

It is not for me to Desire the Author of the *Courant*, to Quote his Authority for the News, I doubt not he has it from the Foreign Prints——I am only supposing such or such things, as there is not only possibility of, but too much probability, as the Event has since made good.

Now, as I often make Guesses from Probabilities, some of which, Time has made good, so I must take the freedom to say of this News, there is not so much as the least Probability for its Truth, and I desire to examine a little the Circumstances.

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If they mean some Disaster from the Seas, I must allow that is possible, because those two Convertible Elements which they have to do with, Air and Water, are Uncertain and Ungovernable by Humane Power—

But when we consider, that they went out with an Easterly Wind, fair as could blow, that this Wind has held here almost ever since, with little or no Variation; and by the settled Weather, and the keeping back of the *Lisbon* Fleet, we have reason to believe is a *borow Wind*; besides this, we have heard of no Storms any where, nor is the Season of the Year such, as in which Storms are very usual in these parts of the World; on these, and such like Considerations, I must tell him, if the Disaster is meant from the Sea, it is very probable 'tis a *French Fiction*.

If from Enemies this Disaster is Expected, Where must they be? We know the *French* Fleet is not Rendezvous'd, nor their Squadrons joyn'd, it must be some Invisible Navy must beat them.

If therefore they mean by Fighting, that seems so far from Probable; that I do not think it Possible, unless some Navy, in *Nubibus*, appear'd against them; for we know where the *French* Fleet is, viz. part of it in *Bress*, part in the *Streights*; and set the *French* aside, all the Southern Parts of the World joyn'd together, are not able to look the Fleet Sir *Cloudfly Shovell* carried with him, in the Face.

If this Disaster is some Treachery, some Plot, Burning or Blowing up; this indeed may be, and the *French* may report it, as Conscious of having Contriv'd it; our Fleet never went to Sea Unmann'd with Rogues, whatever it has done with Honest Men, and perhaps more in our Navy, than in any in the World; but this can be no Disaster to the Navy in general, other than the Loss of some few Ships, which the other would still Repair; so that the Fleet, which must be understood by his Words, cannot in any Probability have met with any Disaster, at a Navy, and so his News is not even that way probable to be True.

This spreading false News, with a *We hear*, has sometimes Various Ends and Designs to bring to pass in it, and the use to be made of it for Parties, and special Service, is very remarkable; and how this Gentleman will

clear himself of, at least being guilty of spreading such false and fatal Alarms, I know not, that he has any Design in it, I do not pretend, I hope he is better Enclin'd than that.

But I may be allow'd to make this fair Construction of the News it self, if it should be true, we shall have something else to do, than to fall out with one another; if our Wooden Walls meet with a Disaster, our Posture as to Defence, would be very Indifferent; our Naked Coast, and our Expos'd Trade, would soon find us other Business, than to be Piquing, Railing at, and Abusing one another.

In short, I am sorry to say it, but to me it seems plain, we want some Capital Misfortune to Alarm us, to make us look about, and to put us in mind, that we are Ruining our selves by the strange Disorders of our Temper, and the particular prompting of Ill Men among us; and 'tis strange to me, we do not see it.

What are the Railings at the Queen, as Deserting the Church? At the Bishops, as *Presbyterians*? At the Low Church Gentry, as pulling down the Church, but blowing the Mischief up to a height, in order to bring us all into Confusion?

The Authors of these Inconsistencies, and Ridiculous Suggestions, ought to be Esteem'd as *Boutefeu's*, Incendiaries, Enemies to the Civil Government, Disturbers of the Publick Peace, and Destroyers of the Church; and in any Government but this, any Government but one that strives to Win Men to Moderation, by their Immoderate Lenity, that with Invincible Patience, bears the constant Insults of a Party, who pretending the Church abuse the Queen, Insult her Government, and Brand the Men with Treachery to the Ecclesiastical Establishment, on whose Integrity, Wisdom, and Conduct, the Prosperity of the Church is now Built; and who, if they were remov'd, would soon Convince the World, that these Furious Sons of *Jebru*, would with the World, turn the Church upside down.

That a Protestant Church of England Queen, a Zealous and Pious Clergy, and a Collection of Church of England Gentry, Born, Educated, and all of them having continued True to her Communion, should be

be Branded with Designs against that very Church they are Members of, is an Impudence so Monstrous, that 'tis the Wonder of the Time, the Broachers of such Dangerous Absurdities, are not proceeded against in a way of Justice, and the Church Deliver'd from the Danger of such Betrayers of her Peace.

Would any Government but ours, bear to hear a Clergyman in a Church of England Pulpit, under the very Eye of the Queen's Pallace, beating the Alarm of Ecclesiastick Disturbance, and summoning all his Hearers to come in to the Assistance of the Church; for that the whole Frame of the Government was out of Course?

What shall we call this? What will Mr. *Rebearsal* say, if I call it Preaching Sedition, and Proclaiming at the Door of the Queen's House, and almost in Her Majesty's Hearing, That neither Her Majesty has any Right to Rule, nor Understands how to Govern, now she has Undertaken it?

I humbly Desire the said Gentleman not to Question the Truth of Fact, lest I should be oblig'd to Expose one of the best Champions of the High Church Cause, and call in Dr. B — as an Evidence to prove, That more and worse Language of that sort, even Her Majesty Her self might have had the Satisfaction of hearing from a Cathedral Pulpit near Westminster, not yet fourteen Days ago.

Had a Dissenter said thus, in or about the Year 1683, or 84, I would fain ask, What Sir Roger L'Estrange, would have call'd it? What a Court of Justice would have said of it? And I would also refer to any Man, what even Mr. *Rebearsal* himself would have call'd it; if a Swiss Parson had Preach'd so of the Kirk of Scotland, in any of the Churches of Edinburgh?

One would think these Men were quite Mad, that they were in a Plot against the Church it self; for without doubt, these Things tend to her Destruction, and nothing but being reduc'd to the last Extremity, will prevent it.

It might be very well worth the Consideration of these Warm Gentlemen — Whether their own Extravagancies have not really been their own Damage? And whether they have not actually Ruin'd their In-

terest, by pushing at the Destruction of their Innocent Neighbours?

Who have been the Men that have thrown out above 40, in 134, upon one Head? Even the 134 themselves. Tacking has been the Ruine of Tacking; hot Measures, Expose themselves, and the Men of Fire, ruine the Men of Fire.

Thus High Church runs on into *No Church*, till the Cry of People tosses them out in Course; all their Alarms serve to Awaken the Nation against themselves, and open Peoples Eyes to see the Contradiction and Inconsistency of their Proceedings.

It cannot be other wise in any like Case, for Extreams never serve a good Cause, and generally ruine a bad one.

We are told, by a certain Author, "That the *Whigs*, as he calls them, mistook the Queen, when Her Majesty moved her People to Peace and Union, they Understood Her, That the Church was to be pull'd down, and fell in with the Motion.

— A very odd Mistake this must be indeed, and the Queen must have reason to resent it, if any such thing was, that when Her Majesty presses her Subjects to Moderation and Peace, any Body should suggest, that the Queen's Meaning was Destruction and Subversion; such Absurd Guesses would indeed Merit Her Majesty's Resentment; and were the *Whigs* Capable of so much Weakness and Folly, they must indeed merit much more Contempt than ever any Prince put upon them; but what Ground any Man can have for a Suggestion so weak, I will not here Examine; but this I must say, and I think the Consequence has made it plain, That these High Gentlemen strangely mistook the Queen in Her Majesty's first Speech at her Accession to the Throne, when, as Reason good, the Queen Declar'd she would Extend her particular Favour to those who were most Zealous for the Church; these People run away with it at such a rate, that they run all their Politicks out of Breath.

Down with the *Whigs*, down with the *Presbyterians*, down with the *Meeting-Houses*; was such a Universal Cry, that nothing else was to be heard in the Mouths of these Parties for a long time; *Press, Pulpit, Coffee-house*, all the Discourse of the Kingdom, was what Her Majesty would do; and how the

the Church should Triumph over her Enemies the *Dissenters*; how it should now be fully Reveng'd, and all things were to be done; *the shortest way*.

Tho' this Truth was Unhappily told by the Author of this, a little too soon, yet Time has made it plain, it was in their Design, and Discovered by themselves.

As if Her Majesty, by the most Zealous Members of the Church, must of Necessity mean Persecution and Destruction of their Brethren.

But the Queen soon let them know they were mistaken, that Persecution was not the Principle of the *Christian Church*, and consequently not of a *Christian Queen*; but that they are most truly Zealous for the Church of *England*, that with Temper, Moderation, and Christian Charity, maintain her Principles without the Ruine and Destruction of any Body; studying to Unite the Churches Safety, and the Publick Interest together, by promoting the Peace of all Parties; this is Moderation, and on this the Safety of the Church of *England*, does depend.

ERRATA.

THE Reader is desir'd to Correct the following Errors in our last Review.

P. 1. col. 1. l. 16. for the *Maes* read *Moselle*; P. 2. col. 1. l. 4. place the Comma at *before*, and dele the Comma at *which*, l. 11: for *Upper Rhine* read *Moselle*, l. 12. a Comma at *subst*, l. 44. for *Travail* read *Longing*. P. 2. col. 2. l. 19. for *Hand* read *Hands*; l. 49. for *Rob* read *Rob them*. P. 3. col. 2. l. 17. for *Discontent* read *Dissenters*.

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